

Pediatric Cardiac Surgery

Pediatric cardiac surgery is performed on infants and children who have congenital (existing at the time of birth) heart defects. There are many types of congenital heart defects and not all of them require surgery. However, there are some that are quite severe causing your child to have the following symptoms: growth retardation, decreased exercise tolerance, increase in the size of the heart muscle, cyanosis (blue color observed in the skin and mucous membranes), shortness of breath and difficulty breathing, and increased heart rate.

Research studies suggest that hospitals that perform more than 100 pediatric cardiac surgeries per year have better outcomes than hospitals and surgeons that perform fewer than 100 cases per year. For surgeons, it is suggested that they perform a minimum of 75 or more pediatric cardiac surgeries per year. For all cardiac surgery the Cardiac Care Network of Ontario (CCN) Consensus Panel on Cardiac Surgical Services recommends an annual minimum of 150 procedures per surgeon and 500 per center.

[See page 20 for references, numbers 1, 2, 7 and 16.]

Region	Average Annual Volume
Subregion	
Hospital	
Central / Northeastern Region	
Columbia	
University Hospitals and Clinics	17
Kansas City / Western Region	
Kansas City (Jackson County)	
Children's Mercy Hospital	230
Saint Luke's Hospital	1
St Louis / Eastern Region	
St. Louis City / County	
Christian Hospital Northeast-Northwest	1
Saint Louis University Hospital	1
SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital	101
St. Louis Children's Hospital	291

Procedure-Specific Questions

- ◆ Are there any other options besides surgery to treat my child's congenital heart defect?
- ◆ How long can we wait before the surgery needs to be done?
- ◆ What should I do to prepare my child for this type of surgery?
- ◆ Will I be allowed to stay with my child in the hospital?
- ◆ Will my child have to have other operations after this one in order to continue repair of the congenital heart defect?

(See page 3 for other questions)

